

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1078

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Bryan Pipes for his great courage and resourcefulness.

WHEREAS, over much of its history, Tennessee has been known as the Volunteer State because it has been the home of so many valiant men and women who have responded with great courage and strength of character in times of trouble and adversity, whether in war or peace; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding Tennessean is Bryan Pipes, who, on February 8, 2008, acted with courage and resourcefulness to save the life of Eddie Lee Grayson, a mentally challenged young man trapped in a burning house; and

WHEREAS, on that fateful day, Mr. Pipes, and his fellow Hartsville Missionary Baptist Church members were concluding another day of providing shelter and food for storm victims three nights after tornadoes had ripped through that area; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pipes was approached by a frantic Christine Ciriznano yelling that her house was on fire; and

WHEREAS, upon seeing a glow emanating from the front door of Mrs. Ciriznano's nearby home, Pastor Barney Allison sent a parishioner to the church to retrieve a fire extinguisher and then quickly emptied it onto the fire; and

WHEREAS, once he realized that someone might be in the house, Mr. Pipes valiantly entered the smoke-filled house, grabbed a flashlight, and made his way upstairs where he heard cries of fright from Eddie Grayson, Mike and Christine Ciriznano's adult foster child; and

WHEREAS, after feeling around in the dark, Mr. Pipes stumbled upon Mr. Grayson, reached down, and picked him up, while saying a prayer to the Lord to help him; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Grayson fell to the floor and Mr. Pipes, unable to breathe, ran outside for more help; he found that help in the form of James Dickens; and

WHEREAS, undeterred by the dangerous situation that awaited him in the house, Mr. Pipes, along with Mr. Dickens, made his way back into the house; together, they ran up the stairs, where they saw Eddie Lee Grayson lying on the floor crying; and

WHEREAS, fighting against extreme heat and smoke, the two men picked up Eddie and carried him down the stairs, feeling their way by rubbing their backs and elbows against the wall as they went; and

WHEREAS, once outside, Mr. Pipes and Mr. Dickens laid Eddie Grayson on the ground and propped up his head using Mr. Dickens's jacket as a pillow; they also offered comfort, support, and a warm coat to a shivering and scared Edward Rochner, Mr. Grayson's mentally handicapped foster brother; and

WHEREAS, Bryan Pipes's courage and strength of character are clearly deserving of special recognition and praise; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Bryan Pipes for his outstanding demonstration of courage, resourcefulness, and presence of mind, as we join with all the citizens of Tennessee in expressing our admiration and appreciation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we offer our best wishes to Mr. Pipes for every success and happiness in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.